



# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

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## United States Will Help Africa Realize a Bright Future, Rice Says

By Charles W. Corey  
Washington File Staff  
Writer

Dakar, Senegal – The United States' partnership with Africa rests on the conviction that only the people of Africa can solve the problems of Africa, but Washington will do its part to help Africans realize the bright future they deserve, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice pledged July 20 in Dakar.

Rice also announced a new initiative, the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Di-

versification Fund, and the establishment of a fourth African trade hub in the Senegalese capital.



US Secretary Rice speaks at the forum on AGOA in Dakar

Addressing the closing session of the July 18-20

AGOA Forum, Rice reiterated President Bush's observation that Africa is a continent full of promise, talent and opportunity.

"With President Bush's leadership, America has tripled our development assistance to Africa," she said, and she pledged, "We will double it again by 2010."

President Bush, Rice told the delegates, also has launched the largest effort ever by one

nation to combat a single

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## Laboratory Equipment Saves Lives

### U.S. Donation Supports 20 Hospitals in Fight Against HIV/AIDS

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) – On Tuesday, July 19, U.S. Ambassador Aurelia E. Brazeal joined Dr Teodros Adhanom, State Minister of the Federal Ministry of Health, for a site visit to St. Paul's Hospital, giving them the chance to see firsthand how equipment donated by the American people through President

Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is transforming Ethiopia's capacity for improving the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS. Accompanying the Ambassador and the State Minister were Mr. William Hammink, Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Ethiopia and Dr. Tadesse

Wuhib, Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention office in Ethiopia (CDC-Ethiopia).

Speaking during her visit to St. Paul's, Ambassador Brazeal said, "It has been remarkable to see, in even the short time that the Emergency Plan

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## Laboratory Equipment Saves Lives - U.S. Donation Supports . . .

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has been at work in Ethiopia, the dramatic results that President Bush's program is having here. It has taken a lot of combined effort – from all of us at the U.S. Mission in Ethiopia and from our Ethiopian partners – to accomplish

significant role in the diagnosis and monitoring of patients with HIV/AIDS who receive antiretroviral treatment (ART) in the national program supported by the United States. Health workers, laboratory technicians, and pharmacists at hospitals delivering ART through-

disease. Today, this coordinated effort is combating HIV/AIDS in more than one hundred nations around the world, and also working to relieve the suffering of millions infected and affected by the disease. The goals of this unprecedented effort include a



**Ambassador Aurelia E. Brazeal, accompanied by State Minister Dr. Tedros Adhanom and Medical Director of St. Paul Hospital Dr. Gezachew Tilahun, is given a tour of the donated laboratory equipment by CDC's Dr. Yohannes Megistu**

what we have to date and to lay the groundwork for future success."

The equipment now in use at St. Paul's is part of a larger donation, valued at over \$1.36 million (over 11.77 million Birr) that is supporting 20 hospitals in 11 regions of Ethiopia. The laboratory equipment donated to St. Paul's Hospital and other facilities is playing a

out the country have been trained in proper use of the donated equipment, test kits, and drugs.

The vision of the President's Emergency Plan is to turn the tide of the global pandemic. The American people have dedicated \$15 billion globally over five years – the largest international health effort in history by a government dedicated to a single

special focus on 15 nations – including Ethiopia – that account for more than 50 percent of the world's infections. In Ethiopia, the Emergency Plan is supporting prevention, care, and treatment programs for many of the 1.5 million Ethiopians living with HIV/AIDS and 537,000 AIDS orphans.

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## United States Will Help Africa Realize a Bright Future . . .

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disease – the \$15 billion Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

“Just last month, President Bush strengthened the U.S. partnership with Africa even further,” she said. “He pledged \$1.2 billion to fight malaria, with the ultimate goal of covering 175 million people in 15 nations. He also proposed new initiatives to train half a million African teachers ... to offer scholarships to 300,000 African students, mostly girls ... and to help several African states better protect the rights of their women citizens.

“Not only is America giving new money, we are revolutionizing how much of that money is given,” she said.

Rice cited the Millennium Challenge Account initiative as another U.S. measure that is providing new development grants to nations that govern justly, promote economic freedom and invest in people.

Madagascar and Cape Verde have already signed development compacts or major agreements with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), and Senegal signed a \$6.5 million compact development grant with the MCC July 20 at the AGOA Forum. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/Archive/2005/Jul/19-811214.html>).)

Rice said development assistance can be a “catalytic” agent, but warned, “It alone will never enable people to lift themselves out of poverty.”

It is open markets that allow individuals to realize the benefits of

their own hard work, she said, which is the purpose of the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

“AGOA,” she told the delegates, “represents the strong bipartisan consensus behind America’s support for Africa’s development and it enshrines the principles of good governance as a condition of membership. Governments that advance democratic reform, protect economic liberty, and strengthen the rule of law are the best partners to entrepreneurial citizens.” So far, she said, “37 sub-Saharan African nations are meeting those critical standards.”

### EXPANDING ON AGOA’S SUCCESS

AGOA benefits everyone, the secretary said. “African businesses create more, better paying jobs. And American consumers receive more goods at lower prices – products like sorbet from South Africa, woodcarvings from Tanzania, and tuna from right here in Senegal.” Last year alone, she said, non-oil imports increased 22 percent, and U.S. imports from the AGOA group of nations were valued at more than \$26 billion.

“To expand the success of AGOA,” Rice said, “African economies must become more competitive and better able to seize the opportunities of trade. With these goals in mind,” she said, “the United States is launching two new initiatives to build the capacity of African countries to trade in freedom.”

The African Global Competitiveness Initiative, which was announced by President Bush in pre-recorded remarks broadcast at the

opening session of the forum, will provide \$200 million over the next five years to help the people of Africa participate more fully in trade and will open a fourth trade hub office in Dakar. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2005&m=July&x=20050718172802wcyeroc0.1014521&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html>).)

The second initiative, the AGOA Diversification Fund, will enable several U.S. agencies to support the efforts of African governments to diversify their economies and capitalize further on the promise of AGOA, Rice said. One project, run by the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, will provide grants totaling nearly \$1 million to help West African nations improve air safety and plan a new railway to better integrate the region.

She added that the newly announced Dakar trade hub will be run by the U.S. Agency for International Development to supplement three already operating trade hub offices in Anglophone Africa.

Africa, Rice said, is “a continent of overwhelming promise. All human beings possess the dignity and the capacity to flourish in freedom. And AGOA is helping talented men and women of Africa to realize their natural potential for prosperity.

“The United States will always offer our full support as the people of Africa build thriving democracies and achieve lasting development. You have set these goals for yourselves, and by yourselves. You are taking ownership

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## The United States Supports Ethiopia's Disaster-Response Capacity

### *New Funding Promotes Improved Management and Planning*

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) -- On July 20, the U.S. Government signed an agreement providing an additional \$1,870,261 (16,215,163 Birr) to help Ethiopia's Federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) better anticipate and manage crises. United States Ambassador Aurelia E. Brazeal and Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Ethiopia Mr. William Hammink, signed the agreement on behalf of the U. S. Government, and DPPC Commissioner Mr. Simon Mechale signed on behalf of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Ambassador Brazeal noted the importance of agreements such as this one as a "sign of the continued and long-lasting partnership between the U.S. and Ethiopia, based on a foundation of people-to-people relationships that began over a century ago. The agreements also serve as a reminder that both the United States Government and the Government

of Ethiopia remain committed to supporting Ethiopia's long-term development and the well being of Ethiopia's citizens." She pointed out the timeliness of the event, saying, "We sign these grants at a time when the United States is

Since 2004, the United States Government, through USAID, has contributed over \$3.9 million (more than 33.9 million Birr) to Ethiopia to strengthen the capacity of the DPPC and other elements of the Ethiopian Government at the federal, regional, and *woreda* levels, allowing them to better respond in a coordinated fashion to various crises.

Specific activities under this five-year program include efforts to improve DPPC policy and operational guidelines; to ensure better trained disaster-response staff and improved communication and logistical equipment at the federal, regional and *woreda* levels; and to improve knowledge-management capacity that will provide a greater ability to anticipate crises, primarily through emergency needs-assessment procedures. ♦



**Ambassador Aurelia E. Brazeal and DPPC Commissioner Mr. Simon Mechale at the signing Ceremony**

demonstrating its support to Africa and its people in many ways, including President Bush's commitment, reaffirmed earlier this month in advance of the G8 summit in Scotland, to double U.S. assistance to Africa by 2010."





## African Growth and Opportunity Forum Opens in Senegal

By Charles Corey  
Washington File Staff Writer

Dakar, Senegal – Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade officially opened the African Growth and Opportunity (AGOA) Forum July 18, declaring that AGOA is a "shared vision of partnership" between the United States and Africa that will link Africa to the global economy and make it better able to achieve long-term economic growth and development.

In his pre-recorded remarks to the forum, President Bush greeted the delegates and pledged his intention to launch the African Global Competitiveness Initiative, which he said "will give a record number of entrepreneurs access to the information and advice they need to succeed in business and foreign trade."

Speaking to a packed plenary session festooned with the flags of the 37 participating AGOA nations, Wade said AGOA is helping to raise the continent of Africa from poverty through the promotion of the private sector and expanded trade.

Wade (whose remarks were translated from French to English) said the fight against poverty is not won by giving charity but through the achievement of expanded trade and economic growth.

Directing his comments to the delegates in the room, Wade said "You have come ... to pave the way for the future" of Africa at

this "major event" which will express "our common assumption for a better world."

Wade praised the AGOA Forum for being representative of the joint U.S.-African commitment to a "reinvigorated Africa."

Then, praising remarks by President Bush that preceded his, Wade said Bush's message is one of optimism, but one that is also based on the conviction that Africa has the material, moral and human wealth to grow.

### BUSH CITES "SHARED VISION FOR AFRICA"

In his remarks, Bush greeted the delegates and saluted them for gathering to discuss "our shared vision for an Africa that is home to democracy, prosperity and opportunity."

"This is a hopeful moment in the history of Africa," he said. "The governments of many African nations are being transformed. Many African economies are vibrant and growing, and in sub-Sahara Africa as a whole economic growth is now at its highest level in eight years."

"An important part of its rising prosperity is the African Growth and Opportunity Act," Bush told his audience. "This wise legislation is reducing barriers to trade, increasing exports, creating jobs and expanding opportunity for Africans and Americans alike."

"AGOA is getting results. Political

reforms in Africa have inspired confidence among American investors. Last year," he noted, "U.S. exports to sub-Saharan Africa increased 25 percent and America's imports from AGOA's countries rose 88 percent."

"The success of AGOA is proving that open trade and international investment are the surest and fastest ways for Africa to make progress," the president said, adding that he was proud last year to sign into law an extension of benefits of the AGOA legislation, which he called a "vital program."

Discussions at the AGOA Forum, he said, are vital to the further expansion and diversification trade so economic growth can be sustained.

"I am confident that your efforts will lead to greater interest and investment in AGOA nations," Bush said.

"Africa is a continent of promise, of talent and opportunity and together we will help the people of Africa realize the bright future they deserve," he said.

### FORUM WILL "PROFOUNDLY AFFECT" AFRICA FUTURE, JOHANNIS SAYS

Also addressing the forum's opening was Mike Johanns, the U.S. secretary of agriculture, who told the delegates the progress made at this AGOA Forum will "profoundly affect the future of many African countries by improv-

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## African Growth and Opportunity Forum . . .

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**Mike Johanns**  
U.S. secretary of agriculture

ing the opportunities and market access available to your people."

He reiterated the theme of the forum: "Expanding and Diversifying Trade to Promote Growth and Competitiveness."

Johanns said he is at the forum because he sees so much opportunity in the field of agriculture, but he readily acknowledged that "moving from opportunity to exports requires hard work, investment and technical expertise."

He called AGOA "central to the Bush administration's objectives as it encourages trade and investment and encourages governments to implement good policies."

AGOA has helped to boost two-way trade between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa to over \$44 billion in 2004. U.S. imports from sub-Saharan Africa have increased by over 50 percent

from 2000 to 2004, have helped make the United States become a "destination" for exports from sub-Saharan Africa, and have boosted foreign investment by the United States and other nations, according to President Bush.

"The United States," Bush said, "now accounts for more than 24 percent of exports, the largest single country share of all of Africa's major trading partners. Non-oil AGOA imports including apparel, automobiles and processed agricultural goods have more than doubled since 2001, reaching \$3.5 billion in 2004."

This new access to the U.S. market through AGOA has created thousands of new jobs in Africa and attracted hundreds of millions of dollars in new investment, he said.

Secretary Johanns reminded the delegates that the G8 leaders at their recent summit in Scotland pledged to increase development aid to Africa by \$50 billion and also agreed to an ambitious debt cancellation package for heavily indebted poor countries.

Additionally, he said, the United States has pledged new resources to education and to combat malaria in Africa, in addition to the largest international health initiative in history – President Bush's five year, \$15 billion program to combat HIV/AIDS.

Johanns reiterated that although aid and debt relief can create bet-

ter conditions for development, it is trade that provides the engine of development.

"The poor of the world," the agriculture secretary told his audience, "do not experience trade as globalization. They experience trade as running water, or electrical power. It comes as decent housing, access to education and better health care for their families."

Turning to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Johanns reiterated President Bush's observation that the WTO Doha negotiations stand as the most practical and important anti-poverty initiative in the world.

He said the United States is "prepared to eliminate agricultural subsidies and has challenged the rest of the world to say that they are ready to do the same."

"It is critical that we seize the moment that now presents itself for genuine reform, especially in agriculture," the secretary said, warning that if this is not achieved, "it may be a long time before another opportunity comes to us again."

The AGOA Forum is the U.S. government's premier platform to articulate and advance its trade and investment policies with sub-Saharan Africa and serves as a place to explore new ways to foster closer economic ties with the region.

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## U.S. Announces Two New Agriculture Initiatives to Aid Africa

By Charles Corey  
Washington File Staff Writer

Dakar, Senegal -- The United States and the countries of sub-Saharan Africa have much in common -- all want to see their own economies prosper and help their agribusinesses succeed in the international marketplace, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns told the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum July 19 as he announced two new agriculture initiatives for Africa.

Johanns told attendees at the Dakar meeting that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for International Development, will develop and implement a trade enhancement program to help Africa's raw agricultural products enter the global market by improving the capacity of African producers to meet international plant and health requirements.

Additionally, he said, USDA will sponsor a trade-and-investment mission later this year to southern Africa to encourage joint ventures, support bilateral trade and boost investment in Africa's rich agricultural sector. More trade and investment missions are planned for other regions as well in 2006, he said.

USDA, he added, has also been working on a new program to encourage investment in agricultural processing and is "pushing for all countries in Africa to take a more active role in the global trade negotiations on the DOHA Development Agenda."

The Doha Development Agenda, which has been characterized by the U.S. Department of State as "a once-in-a-generation opportunity to dramatically reform the rules of world trade, open new markets for goods and services, and spur economic and political progress throughout the developing world," was launched in November 2001 at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Doha, Qatar. On July 31, 2004, the 147 members of the WTO reached a framework agreement to reinvigorate the Doha Development Agenda negotiations.

"Today, sub-Saharan Africa is more of an integral part of the multilateral trading systems, and your nations have an important role in a successful WTO agreement, especially in agriculture," Johanns told his African audience.

"More open markets will help producers," and this will translate into lower tariffs for agricultural products, he said.

"We cannot forget why we embarked on the DOHA Development Agenda. Freer and fairer trade offers us the promise of lifting all nations economically. It is the engine of economic growth. It is the best means for reducing hunger and alleviating poverty, and it is perhaps the strongest counterpoint to terrorism and to terrorists."

Johanns said the United States is firmly convinced that a DOHA Development Agenda that focuses on further opening markets, reducing

distortion and improving discipline will produce benefits for all, including developing countries.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act, he told the group, "offers the framework on which to build our linkages and programs to instill hope, opportunity and results."

Johanns pledged to "expand [U.S.] commitments to the 37 AGOA countries in Africa to work toward stronger trade ties in agricultural goods," but he also said that public-private cooperation is critical to success in this area.

AGOA provides the framework for increasing trade, he said, noting that for 37 AGOA countries in Africa, there is already progress to report. In 2000, African countries exported \$716 million in agricultural products to the United States, and by 2004 that had risen to \$1 billion, he said.

Johanns said the United States looks forward to a time when independent, financially secure countries in Africa participate as "full partners" in the global economy.

To make this work, he said, the United States believes that it must support trade-capacity-building programs -- such as training of regulatory officials and training on pest risk assessments for raw agricultural exports -- and create an environment that promotes trade and investment.

"I envision a time when these meetings will take place only to fine-tune a prosperous trade part-

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## U.S. Announces Two New Agriculture . . .

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nership," he said. "Let us get on with the process that, with time and hard work, promises a better tomorrow for all of us."

Johanns, head of the U.S. delegation at the AGOA Forum, shared the podium with Kenyan Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry Zaddock Syon'goh, who stressed that agriculture is critical to all African economies.

African agriculture needs to learn how to "add value" to its exports to gain higher prices and thus earn more foreign exchange, Syon'goh said. Succeeding at this, he noted, will increase employment and earnings.

Additionally, he asked that agricultural research and technology be more closely linked to the African farmer, who is struggling to maintain productivity.

"Farmers who once produced enough for themselves are now having to face declining productivity," and with that, the Kenyan warned, "they are bound to go into forested areas [and] cut down trees to expand their farming. What we have seen is accelerated deforestation in most African countries" as a result, he said.

Syon'goh also called on African farmers to "embrace biotechnology" in order to improve productivity by the hectare and to make farming a viable occupation.

In addition, he said that African farmers and governments must become proficient at meeting international sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards. Those standards, he said, "have become not only a question of health and product safety, but key issues to market access."

The AGOA Forum is the U.S. government's premier platform to articulate and advance its trade and investment policies with sub-Saharan Africa and serves as a place to explore new ways to foster closer economic ties with the region through the historic African Growth and Opportunity Act.

Three AGOA forums have been held previously: in Washington in October 2001, in Mauritius in January 2003, and again in Washington in December 2003.

For additional information, see African Growth and Opportunity Act ([http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/trade\\_economic\\_development/agoa.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/trade_economic_development/agoa.html)).

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## Millennium Challenge Account Looking . . .

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the U.S. government's premier platform to articulate and advance its trade and investment policies with sub-Saharan Africa and serves as a place to explore new ways to foster closer economic ties with the region, through the historic African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

Three AGOA Forums have been held to previously: Washington in

October 2001, Mauritius in January 2003 and again in Washington in December 2003.

The 2005 AGOA Forum, which is hosted by Senegal, will focus on how eligible countries can diversify their exports by taking advantage of the broad range of products eligible for preferential U.S. treatment under AGOA.

For additional information on U.S.

initiatives to assist the continent, see U.S. Aid to Africa ([http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid\\_to\\_africa.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid_to_africa.html)) and Millennium Challenge Account ([http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic\\_issues/mca.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/mca.html)).

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## USAID Program Helping to "Bridge Digital Divide"

By Charles Corey  
Washington File Staff Writer

Dakar, Senegal – The U.S.-funded Digital Freedom Initiative is helping to "bridge the digital divide" between developed and developing nations, says Fatimata Seye Sylla, director of the program in Senegal.

Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and a host of private-sector companies, the program seeks to drive economic growth, enhance competition in the field of information technology, increase the profitability of small and medium-sized businesses, stimulate employment in the local community and increase the participation of small and medium-sized businesses in the global marketplace.

The program targets 20 developing countries. Senegal was selected as a pilot program and Peru, Indonesia and Jordan have also been selected to participate.

"The idea was to get positive results from the pilot country and replicate those results in other countries," Sylla told the Washington File in a recent interview.

The Digital Freedom Initiative (DFI) in Senegal commenced on October 1, 2003, with the aim of using information and communication technologies such as computers and cell phones, along with volunteer expertise, to develop private sector companies, she said.

The program has had a "huge impact," Sylla explained, with four separate projects being run in Senegal: access to market, management operations for small and medium-sized enterprises, telecenter and cybercafé management, and capacity building for private sector IT (information technology) service providers.

On access to market, Sylla said DFI supports an association of women tie-dyers. "We trained 45 trainers in management, marketing [and] dying techniques and have set up a Web site for them to help them better market their products and have access to a wider market both locally and abroad," she said.

DFI, she said, is not only providing training but also access to markets via the World Wide Web.

### PROGRESS ON MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS, INTERNET ACCESS

On management operations, Sylla said much progress has been made in the health sector, helping clinics and doctors manage their practices both medically and financially through computers. Sylla said DFI is also getting ready to work with the American company Voxiva to set up a management information system for HIV/AIDS in Senegal.

Additionally, she said, DFI is supporting the University of the Sahel through the creation of a Web site for students who have access to a local virtual library, a chat room for teachers and students and an e-learning (electronic learning) plat-

form. All of this, she added, will be replicated at other public and private universities worldwide.

Setting up cybercafés is the program's major focus, she said, because demand for access to educational information on the World Wide Web is so high.

"The main problem we have concerning telecenters and cybercafés here in Senegal is with regard to management," she said, noting that many of those operations opened in Senegal but then closed -- not because of lack of demand but because of bad management.

After consulting and training with DFI, she said, a woman who owned a cybercafé with four computers now has 12 computers and is hiring more people and making more money. Also through DFI, women are now marketing their cloth worldwide instead of just locally.

To date, she said, DFI has trained about 200 managers of telecenters and cybercafés in Dakar and six other regions throughout the country and plans to expand as well.

The training, she said, is being documented and translated so it can be replicated in other countries worldwide.

In the fourth project, capacity building for local IT service providers, volunteers from the U.S. private sector come in for one to

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## Millennium Challenge Account Looking for New Partners

By Charles W. Corey  
Washington File Staff Writer

Dakar, Senegal – The U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has moved from idea to theory to reality and is looking for good development partners worldwide who will use funds wisely to promote economic growth and reduce poverty, Ambassador Paul V. Applegarth, MCC chief executive officer, told the AGOA Forum July 18.

Addressing the delegates of the 37 nations eligible for assistance under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, Applegarth said, "The beauty of the MCC is that becoming eligible (for the program) is within the power of almost every African country. The power is up to you," he said.

Applegarth told the delegates MCC is at the forum "to talk about what it means in practice and operation (to be part of the MCC) in very concrete terms." MCC, he said, is now working with 400 million people in 30 countries all across the globe.

He said it is particularly appropriate that an MCC session be held within the context of the AGOA Forum because "there is not one magic bullet to reducing poverty, promoting economic growth, trade, debt reduction, private sector investment, and foreign aid."

The MCC believes in aid, but specifically in more effective aid, he stressed. Additionally, he said, MCC wants to implement a "cycle of success. Good policy increases

peoples' potential" and that directly translates into success, he said.

The MCC, Applegarth explained, is currently working to implement lessons learned from the past. "Good policies promote growth and support poverty reduction," he said.

Applegarth said MCC has "come a long way" since its founding and is currently working in 17 countries selected from the 82 poorest countries in the world, of which nine are in Africa. He noted that the first MCC compact was signed with Madagascar, which has made reducing poverty and accelerating economic growth a national priority.

The first MCC Threshold Program Agreement, for countries making their way through the MCC process, will be signed later this week in Burkina Faso, he added.

"Africa has been a focus of our program," he said, "not because we gave it special treatment but because African leaders, African governments have taken sometimes difficult steps to reform policies and to qualify and then have moved quickly to complete (their own) good programs."

In little more than 10 months, the MCC has approved more than \$625 million in compact, pre-compact and threshold program funding in nine different countries, he said, adding that MCC is now having what is becoming known as an "MCC effect" on good governance in many countries.

### CAPE VERDE

The MCC chief appeared on the program along with the Cape Verde Finance Minister Joao Serra. MCC signed a \$110 million five-year compact with Cape Verde on July 4.

The MCC chief executive praised Cape Verde as an example of a nation practicing what MCC is trying to encourage. "Cape Verde's leadership has an outstanding track record in democratic governance, transparency and in fighting corruption and has created a world class fiscal system." Cape Verde, he said, deserves to be recognized for its achievements.

Cape Verdean Minister of Finance Joao Serra said his government is democratically elected, has an independent judiciary and is corruption-free but faces both a high unemployment and equally high poverty rate. For that reason, he said, there is a need to build a society based on private-sector growth that can sustain long-term economic growth.

Cape Verde, he said, shares the MCC philosophy that stresses the need for good governance.

The objective of his government, Serra told the delegates, is to use MCC to help it come out of poverty and achieve a higher economic growth rate, better development and an improved standard of living for its people.

The July 18-20 AGOA Forum is

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## U.S. Small Business Administration Ready to Help African Business

By Charles Corey  
Washington File Staff Writer

Dakar, Senegal – Developed and developing countries have one thing in common: their economies run on small business. That is why Manuel A. Rosales of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is attending the July 18-20 African Growth and Opportunity (AGOA) Forum in Dakar.

Rosales, the associate administrator in SBA's Office of International Trade, says that education, experience and expertise are all essential ingredients in operating a successful business and that SBA's small business exhibition trade fair at the AGOA Forum will highlight these elements for its African audience.

In a July 17 interview with the Washington File, Rosales said SBA is facilitating the trade fair so African small business entrepreneurs can exchange ideas.

"We want to generate momentum for small business in Africa," he said. Such an exhibition is important to the AGOA Forum, he said, because "everything is done through networking, through access to markets, access to each other."

"Hopefully, through this forum and exhibit we will see some business done," he said. "That is the name of the game – to come here and hopefully walk away with an opportunity."

Rosales recalled that at the recent G8 Summit in Scotland, Africa's debt and development situa-

tion were top priority. Similarly, he said, the AGOA Forum showcases the United States' main AGOA trade legislation, which allows 80 percent of the products from 37 participating African nations duty-free entry into the United States.

When one looks at what is being exported to the United States from the AGOA countries, he said, the United States is currently running about a \$27 billion deficit, with 80 percent of that being in oil and minerals.

In light of those figures, he said, small businesses are not yet heavily participating in the AGOA process. "So this whole forum is an exchange of information from our various agencies on how to assist the Africans" so they can trade more effectively with the United States, he said.

To take advantage of the U.S. market, Rosales said African entrepreneurs must first educate themselves on AGOA and what is available to them in their own countries.

But "government can only do so much. The private sector has to take the initiative," Rosales said. Through its exhibit area, he added, SBA hopes to help small businesses in the private sector contribute to the development of their countries' economies.

### SMALL BUSINESSES DRIVE NATIONAL ECONOMIES

In the United States, he said, many Americans think the economy rides on large firms like Coca-

Cola or General Motors. In reality, he said, small business carries the American economy, making up about 55 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). "It is small business," he said, "that creates many of the new jobs that are now available, provides most of the innovation to the marketplace and is one of the largest employers. So small business is the economic engine that fuels our economy -- no doubt about it."

President Bush recognizes that fact, Rosales said, and that is why he has such a strong pro-business agenda. "What is striking is that most countries have the same kind of phenomenon," he said. "Maybe not in GDP but in terms of who employs the most people, it is small business. Most developing countries do not have the large companies like the General Electric or the General Motors. They are small-business-based."

In Africa, most businesses are micro-businesses, Rosales said. "Now what we need to do is assist them in growing that sector."

"Going into business is a risk," he stressed, but through education such as that offered by the SBA, one can help reduce those risks. Fifty percent of all new businesses in the United States will fail within five years, Rosales noted; SBA tries to reduce that failure rate by providing technical assistance, counseling, programs and services. "Many of those same lessons learned can be transferred to African business as well," he said.

*(Continued on page 21)*



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## Americans Share Confidence in Rwanda's Future, Says Laura Bush

By Susan Ellis  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- First lady Laura Bush's visit to Fawe Girls' School in Kigali, July 14, was prefaced by a tour of the grim reminders of Rwanda's tragic 1994 genocide: the Kigali Memorial Center and Gizosi Genocide Memorial, located on a hill overlooking the bucolic town of Kigali.

The visit to Rwanda was the final stop on Mrs. Bush's official visit to Africa to promote AIDS prevention and strengthen the role of women on the continent. She also visited South Africa and Tanzania.

A reporter with the first lady remarked that, while viewing grisly displays of victims' clothing -- hung as in a department store -- and boxes filled with skulls, many bearing the marks of machete attacks, she looked grim and troubled.

Mrs. Bush, accompanied by her daughter Jenna and Cherie Blair, wife of the British prime minister, then visited the presidential compound. They participated in a roundtable discussion on democracy building with Rwanda's first lady, Madame Jeannette Kagame, and female government officials.

That evening she was greeted by Odette Mutanguha, coordinator, and Joseph Rwagatare, director, at Fawe Girls' School in Kigali.

The first lady told them she had learned a great deal about Rwanda and about the genocide that occurred just over 10 years ago.

"Some would call the tragedy in Rwanda unspeakable," she said. "But that is precisely the problem. Too few people around the world spoke out about what was happening here. Too few people recognized the scale of suffering. Rwandans have done extraordinary work recovering from

cies for their nation."

Continuing to speak of Rwanda's historic record of women in power, Mrs. Bush said, "Women also hold 10 ministerial posts in the government. Many of the women who serve today survived the genocide. Many of their family members did not. They've had to endure immense pain and summon the courage to move forward. They've become leaders in every field, setting a new standard for women's participation in society -- not just here, but across the continent and around the world."

At the FAWE School, she said, girls are trained to be the leaders of tomorrow. "Girls are educated in a safe and secure and supportive environment. And living here means that girls can concentrate on just being students. Here, girls are free to concentrate on their studies. Their parents and their teachers know that

educated women will make a difference in society and improve the life for all of Rwanda's families."

She said the American people are committed to working with the people of Rwanda to advance education, especially for girls.

"President Bush's African Education Initiative provides students with school supplies, scholarships and books. Over four years, the new funding will help train 500,000 schoolteachers and administrators in Africa. And it will make available 300,000 scholarships for African girls to attend



**Rwanda's first lady Jeanette Kagame (L), Cherie Blair and U.S. first lady Laura Bush bow their heads after a wreath-laying ceremony at the Gisozi Genocide memorial in Kigali, Rwanda.**

that devastation."

Speaking optimistically of Rwanda's future, she said, "Now this is a country of growing opportunity, with confidence in the future. The people of the United States share your confidence in Africa's future."

"Earlier today I met with women who serve in Rwanda's Parliament. Rwanda has a higher proportion of female legislators than any other country in the world. Nearly half of the members of Rwanda's Parliament are women - women who are the ones making laws and developing poli-

*(Continued on page 21)*



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## First Lady Recalls Love of Teaching in Visit to Tanzanian School

By Susan Ellis  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- As a former teacher and librarian, first lady Laura Bush says she was "especially pleased to visit the Kiembesamaki Teachers Centre" in Zanzibar, Tanzania, July 14.

She noted her academic experience gave her "something in common with all of the teachers" present. "We all love children and we want to see them achieve their highest potential," she said.

"Because we believe the children of Africa deserve a good education, and because we have hope for their future," the first lady said, the United States is currently giving more than \$200 million for education programs in Africa through the United States Agency for International Development African Education Initiative. President Bush has also proposed doubling the fund from 2006 to 2010.

The first lady explained that the African Education Initiative helps to provide school supplies, scholarships and books. The new funding over four years "will support training for 500,000 teachers and administrators in Africa," she said.

Focusing on the importance of girls' education in Africa, the first lady said that through the Ambassador's Girls' Scholarship Program "the United States is helping families send their daughters to school, where girls can receive an education that will empower them to

make a difference throughout their lives. Over four years, the American people will fund 300,000 scholarships for African school-girls."

Noting that girls and boys in school also need books to read and study to expand their knowl-

hundred percent to the communities. Local men and women do their part by getting involved in the school -- volunteering their time to repair classrooms, to build playgrounds, or to provide meals," she said.

Over the last five years, she said, the Madrasa Resource Centre and the Aga Khan Foundation have supported the creation of 180 schools in East Africa. More than 9,000 children have been educated and more than 900 women have been trained as teachers.

"The American people are pleased to work with organizations [such as the Madrasa

Resource Centre] that understand local needs and respond to those needs. By partnering with local organizations, our contributions can have a direct impact on people's lives," she said.

Mrs. Bush expressed her gratitude to have had the opportunity to visit Zanzibar and to meet the teachers and students.

"From the youngest girls and boys in pre-school, to teachers with years of experience, education is a priority. Your emphasis on education for all creates a hopeful future for the people of Zanzibar," she said.

For more information, see U.S. Aid to Africa.♦



**Laura Bush visits Al Rahma Madrasa Pre-School with First Lady Mrs. Shadya Karume in Zanzibar, Tanzania, July 14, 2005.**

edge of the world, the first lady also announced a donation of 20,000 books for schools in Zanzibar.

"As the Honorary Ambassador for the United Nations Decade of Literacy, I believe deeply in the importance of reading," she said.

Mrs. Bush also told the teachers of her visit earlier in the day with students at Al Rahma Madrasa Pre-School, which the United States -- in partnership with Zanzibar's Madrasa Resource Centre -- helped establish with funding from the Aga Khan Foundation.

"The Foundation provides seed money and training to communities that want to open a madrasa pre-school, but the schools belong one

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## Laura Bush Salutes Life-Saving Work of Tanzania's PASADA Clinic

By Susan Ellis  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- On the Tanzania leg of her Africa journey July 13, the United States' first lady, Laura Bush, said she was "inspired" by the "life-saving life-changing work" done by Pastoral Activities and Services for People with Aids (PASADA), a clinic run by the Catholic Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam.

Speaking before an audience that included Ana Mkapa, wife of President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, she said, "Here, people with HIV/AIDS can get the treatment they need to fight the disease. And they can also get the love and support they need to live a happy and full life."

Recognizing that "the best way to provide services is through organizations like PASADA, that "have deep ties to communities and can provide help person-to-person," the first lady announced that the United States "will strengthen our partnership with PASADA, providing an additional \$500,000" from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) over this year and the next."

She said people of faith everywhere have made a commitment to help men and women who are living with HIV/AIDS and are "often the only people willing to go into situations that others might find too dangerous or too desperate."

"Their faith carried them forward, and here at PASADA, we see the results: parents who will watch their children grow up; children

who will know the love of their parents for many years; and people who are living free of HIV/AIDS because they've learned how to prevent infection," the first lady said.

Naming some of the services PASADA provides, she said that for 13 years, the group has helped men, women and children whether



**First lady Laura Bush speaks about AIDS at PASADA in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, July 13, 2005.**

they are infected with the virus or not, by providing health education in communities; teaching teens and adults about the risks of HIV transmission; and offering voluntary counseling and testing, so that those with HIV can get needed treatment.

PASADA also helps prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV, taking another step toward "keeping the next generation HIV-free," Laura Bush said.

"During the last two years, the American people, through the President's Emergency Plan, have provided \$177 million to combat AIDS in Tanzania and to fund Tanzanian efforts to treat this disease. These resources have contributed to 4,400 people receiving

anti-retroviral treatment, nearly 43,000 mothers receiving HIV transmission-prevention services, and 12,000 orphans and vulnerable children receiving care and support."

Malaria is another major health problem in Tanzania and all of sub-Saharan Africa. Its victims are mostly children under the age of 5. The first lady said President Bush has announced a new initiative to combat that disease.

"His proposal calls for \$1.2 billion over the next five years," she said. The money will pay for insecticide-treated nets, it will allow for indoor spraying against mosquitoes, and it will provide effective new combination drugs to treat malaria. Our eventual goal is to reach more than 175 million people in 15 nations."

Tanzania, she said, is one of three countries that will benefit first from this new initiative. She welcomed the efforts of other partner governments and organizations, like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, that are using their funds to fight malaria.

AIDS and malaria already have taken a high toll on men, women and children in Africa, Mrs. Bush said. "Lives have been lost, dreams have died, productivity and creativity have vanished. We can stop it. The American people are committed to standing with the peoples of Africa. And we have confidence in Africa's future. By working together, by helping each other, we can stop the spread of disease and give people and nations renewed hope." ♦

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## African Global Competitiveness Initiative Worth \$200 Million

The African Global Competitiveness Initiative announced by President Bush will target \$200 million of additional U.S. resources to greatly expand trade capacity-building efforts currently under way with African nations, according to a fact sheet issued by the White House July 19.

The initiative will operate through U.S. Agency for International Development regional trade hubs in Accra, Ghana; Gaborone, Botswana; Nairobi, Kenya; and an additional fourth location.

Following is the text of the White House fact sheet:

(begin fact sheet)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary  
July 19, 2005

African Global Competitiveness Initiative

"I think one of the things that many African nations have come to discover is that through trade, they can develop a more hopeful society rather than through aid. ... When you open up your market to entrepreneurs and small businesses, it helps spread wealth. And that's, after all, what we're trying to achieve."

President George W. Bush, June 7, 2005

-- President Bush has announced the African Global Competitiveness Initiative with a five-year funding target of \$200 million of additional resources. This new initiative greatly expands the trade capacity building efforts under way with African nations through the U.S. Agency for International Develop-

ment's (USAID) Regional Trade Hubs located in Accra, Ghana; Gaborone, Botswana; and Nairobi, Kenya. The Initiative will further the work of the Trade Hubs in enabling African economies to become better integrated into regional and global markets and to take advantage of trade opportunities afforded by the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

-- As part of the new African Global Competitiveness Initiative, USAID will open a fourth trade hub. The new hub will complement the efforts of the USAID trade hubs in Botswana, Ghana, and Kenya.

-- The Global Competitiveness Initiative will emphasize trade capacity building in the following areas:

-- Improve the climate for private investment in Africa;

-- Expand AGOA trade and intra-African trade;

-- Strengthen the emphasis on information and communications technology in facilitating investment and trade-related efforts in Africa;

-- Stimulate private sector development;

-- Encourage and promote the diversification of exports;

-- Reduce time to market and transport costs by facilitating trade at borders and along transport corridors;

-- Strengthen the financial sector;

-- Facilitate investment in infrastructure and address general bar-

riers to competitiveness; and

-- Improve the capacity of African countries to meet international quality standards and U.S. animal and plant health inspection requirements.

Improving African Competitiveness:

-- Open trade and international investment are some of the surest and fastest ways for Africa to make economic progress. With the rebounding of the global economy and recovery from several lengthy conflicts, much of Africa is poised to see more robust economic growth and an improvement in living standards in the years ahead.

-- AGOA is the cornerstone of the Administration's trade and investment policy toward Sub-Saharan Africa. AGOA's objectives include promoting free markets, expanding U.S.-African trade and investment, stimulating economic growth, and facilitating regional integration and Sub-Saharan Africa's integration into the global economy.

-- To continue to realize the potential benefits of AGOA, eligible Sub-Saharan African countries need to diversify greatly their export base, develop intra-regional trade linkages, and enhance their external competitiveness. The U.S. views trade capacity building and technical assistance programs as essential components of its trade and investment policy.

(end fact sheet)

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## U.S. Military to Assist with Darfur Deployment

In order to contribute to the peacekeeping efforts in the Darfur region of Sudan, the U.S. European Command began the deployment of personnel and equipment to Kigali, Rwanda, on July 14.

A U.S. Air Force team left Ramstein Air Base, Germany, for Kigali to transport about 1,200 Rwandan soldiers to Sudan.

This U.S. airlift is part of NATO's support for the African Union's peacekeeping intervention in Darfur and will contribute to the wide-scale, multilateral effort to provide humanitarian aid to Darfur, where approximately 400,000 Sudanese have been killed and close to 2 million people have been displaced and dispersed to refugee camps since the emergence of the crisis in 2003.

The airlift will rotate Rwandan troops between Kigali, Rwanda, and El Fashir, Sudan, and is scheduled to begin in "the next few days," according to the U.S. European Command.

Following is the text of a U.S. European Command news release on the airlift:

(begin text)

U.S. Contribution to Darfur Airlift Begins

News release from United States European Command

Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany -- U.S. European Command began the deployment of Airmen and equipment to Kigali, Rwanda Thursday to provide logistical and airlift support of Rwandan forces as part of the African Union's expanded mission in the Darfur region of Sudan.



**Rwandan soldiers board a US military plane at Kigali International airport for Darfur, as part of a plan to help prevent further conflict in the troubled Sudanese region, on Sunday July 17, 2005.**

A U.S. Air Force advance team and a C-17 Globemaster III cargo aircraft loaded with support equipment departed Ramstein Air Base, Germany enroute to Kigali where a logistics hub will be established to transport some 1,200 Rwandan soldiers to western Sudan over the next several weeks.

The U.S. airlift is part of NATO's response to support the AU's expanded peacekeeping mission in Darfur with logistics and training.

The U.S. airlift is part of the larger multinational effort to improve security and create conditions in which humanitarian assistance can

be more effectively provided to the people of Darfur. NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer announced on June 9 that the alliance would help the AU expand its peacekeeping force in Darfur from 3,300 to about 7,700 in the coming months.

Planning for the airlift mission is being coordinated by the U.S. European Command plans and operations center here, working with NATO logistics planners at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Three U.S. Air Forces in Europe C-130 Hercules transports and approximately 150 Airmen from bases at Ramstein and RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom, along with additional strategic support from U.S.

Transportation Command, will rotate Rwandan troops from Kigali, Rwanda to El Fashir, Sudan, beginning in the next few days.

About 120 USAFE Airmen and two C-130 aircraft from Ramstein deployed to Africa in October 2004 to conduct a similar mission. By mission's end, the C-130s had carried approximately 352 African Union troops and 118,000 pounds of cargo.

(end text)

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## U.S. Decries "Cowardly Massacre" in Democratic Republic of Congo

In the wake of a "brutal and cowardly massacre of civilians" in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DROC) July 9, the State Department issued a statement July 13 calling on Rwandan rebel forces operating in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to disarm and repatriate immediately, and for other armed militia forces to disarm," to permit re-establishment of secure and stable conditions throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo under the authority and control of that nation's government."

Following is the text of the statement:

(begin text)

STATEMENT BY TOM CASEY, ACTING SPOKESMAN

Massacre in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo

The United States condemns the brutal and cowardly massacre of civilians that took place on July 9 in Ntulumamba, South Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Initial reports indicate that about 40 people, mostly women and children, were deliberately



A Congolese soldier walks past burning homes in the village of Nyakakoma in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo 07/15/05

in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to disarm and repatriate immediately. It is equally important that other armed militia forces disarm, in order to permit reestablishment of secure and stable conditions throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo under the authority and control of that nation's government.

We fully support the United Nations Mission to the Congo's decision to dispatch immediately a mission to the area to determine the facts about the attack and identify those responsible. The United States joins the international community in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in calling for those guilty of such barbarous acts to be brought to justice.

(end text)

murdered by armed men who forced the victims into buildings, which were then burned.

This attack underscores the need for Rwandan rebel forces operating

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## USAID Program Helping to "Bridge Digital . . .

(Continued from page 9)

three months to work with the service providers and local volunteers to strengthen local expertise.

One of those volunteers, Matthew Berg, a recent MBA (master of business administration) graduate of the prestigious Thunderbird Garvin School of International Management in Arizona, told the Washington File he is helping to

create a Web-based accounting system for merchants and women's' groups in Dakar so they can do their own accounting.

The system, he said, is online, so anyone with an Internet connection can take advantage of the multilingual system and find tips on how to manage their stock, do their accounting and run their business.

Berg said his experience in Senegal has allowed him to test some of the ideas he formed in college and implement something that can have a lasting and positive impact on the continent.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

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## Ending Poverty in Africa Requires Multiple Solutions, Expert Says

By Aviva Altmann  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The multibillion dollar financial commitments to Africa by the governments of the Group of Eight (G8) nations at their just-ended summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, are useful but cannot be viewed as the sole solution for ending the continent's poverty, says Stephen C. Smith, an expert on economic development and poverty and the author of the recently released book *Ending Global Poverty: A Guide to What Works*.

Speaking to reporters in Washington July 8 -- while the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States were meeting in Scotland -- Smith emphasized the important role that three different groups play in ending the plight of poverty across Africa: government, the private business sector and the citizenry.

Smith also pointed to the importance of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and private corporations, as well as the need to empower the African people as they seek to jump-start economic growth and development across the continent.

Of all the necessary reforms that need to be made, Smith emphasized empowering the African people to become educated and to stand up for themselves. Taking such decisive action, he said, ultimately will stop the cycle of poverty and "ignite" the path to development.

The cancellation of certain debts for Africa's 18 most impoverished nations and the doubling of aid to Africa between 2004-2010 to some \$50 billion that was adopted at the

G8 summit will work to contribute toward development, he said, but he went on to stress the importance of the private sector remaining involved in the development process.

Smith cited statistics showing how poorly performing education systems are hampering development across the continent, stating that a child in sub-Saharan Africa could expect less than four years of education. In at least 16 sub-Saharan African countries, he said, a child "is more likely to die before the age of five than attend a secondary school."

Because of the large surplus of labor on the African continent, employers can pay extremely low wages to their employees; therefore, families must depend on multiple salaries to survive, Smith said. For that reason, he added, families rely on their children to work, thereby preventing them from going to school and thus perpetuating their illiteracy and inability to break out of what Smith called a "poverty trap."

Smith said that it is exactly such traps that have kept Africa in "a vicious cycle undermin[ing] the efforts of the poor, in which conditions of poverty feed on themselves and create further conditions of poverty." He cited child labor, illiteracy, low skill abilities, unstable incomes, debt bondage, lack of insurance, malnutrition, high fertility, poor irrigation and property mismanagement as examples of traps.

Referring to the G8 summit -- which addressed not only African poverty but also global climate change -- Smith connected the two issues. Sending money and aid to

Africa will help to alleviate poverty there, he said, but then asked: how will this goal ever be reached if the environmental and political conditions in Africa never are improved?

"Our motto is that you can teach a person to fish to feed them for a lifetime, but this can't happen if the lake is overfished and polluted," Smith warned.

To eradicate global poverty, Smith suggested focusing on eight "keys to capability," which he said can be used as solutions to break out of the cycle.

Among these "keys," he said, are: health and nutrition, for adults to work and children to grow to their potential; basic education, for people to break into more lucrative markets and protect themselves from mistreatment; credit and basic insurance, which allow Africans to have more stable incomes and abilities to invest; access to functioning markets and new technology, so Africans can compete with companies from all over the world; a stable environment, so agriculture will be sustainable and successful; and personal and community empowerment to "gain freedom from exploitation and torment."

"Individual empowerment is necessary, but insufficient," Smith said, calling attention to the vitality of empowerment of the community.

"In an age of overflowing abundance, there is no justification for those of us who have been so blessed to stand by while others suffer the most terrible deprivations," Smith said. "To effectively end poverty will require sacrifices, even though the ultimate benefits will be great for us all." ♦

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## Council on American-Islamic Relations Denounces Terrorism

By Mercedes L. Suarez  
Washington File Staff Writer



**Parvez Ahmed, the board chairman of the CAIR**

Washington -- The largest Islamic civil rights group in the United States, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), is releasing a nationwide public service announcement making it clear that terrorism violates the tenets of Islam.

The announcement, called "Not in the Name of Islam," is "a rejection of those who carry out terror attacks in the name of our faith," said Parvez Ahmed, the board chairman of the council, at a July 14 press conference where the 30-second video of the announcement was shown.

Two Muslims, an African-American imam and a woman wearing a head covering are featured in the video, which is being distributed via satellite feed to television stations around the United States.

"We often hear claims Muslims don't condemn terrorism," says the woman in the video. "Islam is not about hatred and violence. It's

about peace," continues the announcement, with subtitles in Arabic and Urdu, the dominant language of Pakistan.

"I think it would be of great interest to local viewers around the country," said CAIR's communications director, Ibrahim Hooper. Television stations are obligated to broadcast a certain amount of public service programming, although it is up to individual stations to choose that programming. "There's a hunger out there for this kind of information," continued Hooper, saying the American public is open to education.

The "Not in the Name of Islam" video announcement bears the same title as an online petition launched by CAIR in 2004. The petition, which has gathered nearly 700,000 signatures, was "designed to disassociate Islam from the violent acts of a few Muslims," said Ahmed. However, negative stereotypes continue, and the efforts of Muslim organizations "have had little impact on the public's perception about Islam's position on terrorism," Ahmed continued. Hooper noted the council's repeated efforts to combat negative perceptions of Islam, saying, "I don't know why we're not breaking through that. That's why we're here today."

After the London terrorist attacks July 7, CAIR issued a statement condemning the acts and met with the ambassador from the United Kingdom in Washington to offer condolences. After September 11, 2001, CAIR took out a full-page advertisement in the Washington

Post condemning the attacks in the United States. Hooper said the CAIR is against all terrorist groups listed by the U.S. State Department.

CAIR's latest public service announcement is expected to air as soon as July 19.

The public service announcement (<http://www.cair-net.org/video/psa.ram>) can be viewed at the CAIR Web site.

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### African Growth and Opportunity Forum . . .

*(Continued from page 6)*

Three AGOA Forums have been held to date: in Washington in October 2001, in Mauritius in January 2003 and again in Washington in December 2003. The 2005 AGOA Forum in Dakar runs July 18-20.

For additional information on U.S. initiatives to assist the continent, see U.S. Aid to Africa ([http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid\\_to\\_africa.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid_to_africa.html)) and Millennium Challenge Account ([http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic\\_issues/mca.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/mca.html)).

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## U.S. Official Highlights Value of International Exchange Programs

By Lauren Monsen  
Washington File Staff Writer



Roger Noriega

Washington -- Roger Noriega, assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, underscored the United States' commitment to advance international understanding in a July 6 online discussion of Western Hemisphere issues and U.S. policy in the region with alumni of several prominent

U.S.-sponsored exchange programs.

For decades, the U.S. government has sponsored a number of international exchange and training programs "that help promote knowledge about the United States and mutual international understanding," says the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA).

One program, in particular, has become known as the United States' "flagship international educational exchange program," according to ECA. Established in 1946, the Fulbright Program was named for then-Senator J. William Fulbright, who introduced the legislation that launched it.

An estimated 267,500 "Fulbrighters" (as its participants are known) have taken part in the program since its inception nearly

60 years ago: roughly 100,900 from the United States, and 166,600 from other countries. The Fulbright Program currently operates in more than 150 countries.

Ever since the United States renewed its emphasis on public diplomacy efforts following the September 11, 2001, attacks against New York and Washington, the mission of these exchange programs -- to enhance international understanding through extended contact between academic and professional colleagues from around the globe -- has assumed a higher profile.

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## United States Will Help Africa Realize a Bright . . .

*(Continued from page 3)*

of your destiny. And America is proud to be your partner."

Prior to addressing the forum, Rice met with Senegal President Abdoulaye Wade at the presidential palace.

The AGOA Forum is the U.S. government's premier platform to articulate and advance its trade and investment policies with sub-Saharan Africa and serves as a place to explore new ways to foster closer economic ties with the region, through the historic African

Growth and Opportunity Act.

Three AGOA forums have been held previously: in Washington in October 2001, in Mauritius in January 2003, and again in Washington in December 2003. The 2006 AGOA Forum will be held in the United States.

For the full text of the secretary's remarks, see "Only Africans Can Solve the Continent's Problems, Rice Says (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-eng->

<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-eng-lish&y=2005&m=July&x=20050720142209ihecua0.6777002&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html>)."

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## U.S. Small Business Administration Ready . . .

*(Continued from page 11)*

Rosales knows business: prior to joining SBA he was a banker. Then got the entrepreneurial bug and started his own firm, Inter-American Financial Services, in San Francisco, which serviced small, medium- and large-sized businesses.

Rosales said SBA gets thousands of overseas visitors each year in person or via the Internet to learn the principles of small business.

"The more people understand what we [in the United States] do, the more they want to be like us, which is very complimentary," he said. "They can take many lessons from SBA and pick and choose and decide what works in their own business."

Rosales said the British government recently surveyed and studied

SBA and subsequently set up a similar operation. Additionally, he said, SBA has a group called Service Corps of Retired Executives [SCORE] that is available to consult on business proposals, providing their expertise free of charge. "These are guys who know the process," he said, "and advise businesspeople to think before they act. Many are specialists in each stage of business."

Rosales said SBA stands ready to do its part under AGOA to increase and enhance U.S.-Africa business and trade.

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## Americans Share Confidence in Rwanda's Future . . .

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school through the Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program."

"The Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program currently pays school fees for 1,500 girls in 48 schools in Rwanda. Girls who receive the scholarship are encouraged to study math and science and to train for any profession they set their minds to. Twenty-nine girls here at this school receive the scholarships."

FAWE, she continued, has given a girl named Christine an opportunity to talk about her personal experiences and difficulties. "She receives support here, and she's gained confidence. Christine said, 'I would like to advise all girls -- don't be scared of boys. Girls and boys have equal rights.'"

And FAWE students' dreams know no boundaries, Mrs. Bush said, naming the student Regine, who "wants to be a pilot because, she said, there aren't any women pilots in Rwanda.

"Many of the girls here have a desire to help other people. They want to make sure that children who are orphaned have the opportunity to get a good education and look forward to a bright future."

As the honorary ambassador for the United Nations Decade of Literacy, Mrs. Bush has donated 20,000 books for schools in Rwanda. "The books include fiction and textbooks, as well as English-French dictionaries. And books will be donated to every school that participates in the Am-

bassador's Girls Scholarship Program," she said.

"The United States is a partner in Rwandan education because we're confident about Rwanda's future, the first lady asserted. "Our confidence grows with every girl and boy who graduates from school prepared to lead Rwanda in peace."

More information is available at U.S. Aid To Africa ([http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid\\_to\\_africa.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid_to_africa.html)).

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